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# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

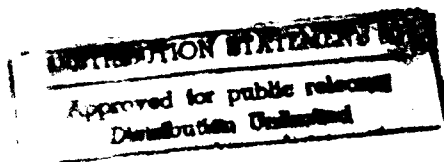
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MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH  
DEAUTHORIZATION PROJECT  
MILAN, ILLINOIS



MARCH 1992

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Rock Island District

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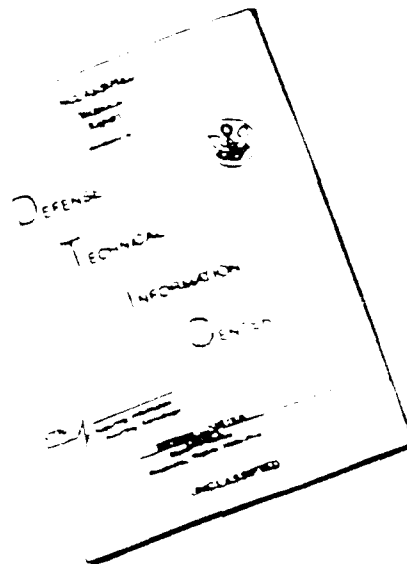
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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P O BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

March 31, 1992

Planning Division

SEE DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA), including a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which addresses the proposed deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project in Milan, Illinois.

The EA is being circulated for a 30-day public review period, commencing from the date of this letter. If at the end of the 30 days, no comments are received that alter the determination that no significant environmental impact will result, the FONSI will be signed and kept on file at the office of the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Please send any comments to the address listed below:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning Division  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John R. Brown", is positioned above the printed name.

John R. Brown  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

Enclosure



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204 2004

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH  
DEAUTHORIZATION PROJECT  
MILAN, ILLINOIS

MARCH 1992

## SUMMARY

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to request deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project. The project is located in Rock Island County, Illinois, in the Mill Creek, Rock River, and Mississippi River floodplains.

When the Illinois and Mississippi (I&M) Canal was built in 1895, Mill Creek was diverted to the Mississippi River by way of the South Slough, an abandoned channel of the Rock River. This project caused serious flooding of Mill Creek in the Village of Milan, Illinois. The Mill Creek - South Slough project was initiated to relieve the problem. The project was authorized by Congress in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930 and was completed in 1932. The project included construction of the Mill Creek spillways to the Rock River, allowing the canal to remain navigable; channel dredging and levee work upstream to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad bridge; enlargement and straightening of the South Slough channel downstream to Jimmy Creek; and excavation of a new South Slough channel from Sand Creek to 1,000 feet above the mouth of South Slough. The authorization also provided for maintenance of Mill Creek and South Slough.

In 1951, the I&M Canal was closed to commercial navigation. This event prompted city, county, and State officials to request that the Mill Creek outlet be restored to the Rock River. This restoration, which was completed in 1963, provided a benefit by reducing the size of bridges to be constructed across the South Slough for Highway 92 and Interstate 280, as well as provided better flood protection for the Village of Milan. However, the Federal Government continued to maintain the levees and channels for the Mill Creek - South Slough project because the project was still needed to protect Milan from major Mill Creek floods until a comprehensive protection project was provided for the village.

In 1974, an Environmental Assessment of the Mill Creek - South Slough operations and maintenance project was conducted. The Environmental Assessment concluded that upon completion of the proposed Milan Local Flood Protection Project (LFPP), the original purpose of the Mill Creek - South Slough project will have been fulfilled.

The Rock Island District completed the Milan LFPP in 1987, and the project provided comprehensive protection for the Village of Milan from flooding by the Rock River, Mississippi River, Mill Creek, Jimmy Creek, Kyte Creek, and Eckhart Creek. The Milan LFPP also included intercepting all local South Slough drainage upstream of Interstate 280 and rerouting the flows into new interior flood control facilities. These facilities included ponding areas, gravity outlets, and a pump station. Thus, the purpose of the Mill Creek - South Slough project has been eliminated, via construction of the Milan LFPP, and no further Federal maintenance of the Mill Creek - South Slough project is required to provide Mill Creek flood protection to the Village of Milan and downstream through Big Island.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH DEAUTHORIZATION PROJECT MILAN, ILLINOIS

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#### ATTACHMENT:

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

EA-1

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH DEAUTHORIZATION PROJECT MILAN, ILLINOIS

#### I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose for the requested deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough (MCSS) project is to eliminate any further Federal maintenance of the project. The MCSS was constructed in 1932 to relieve flooding of Mill Creek in the Village of Milan (plate 1). Remedial flood protection projects constructed by the Federal Government since 1932 have replaced the protection provided by the project. The Mill Creek outlet to the Rock River has been restored after the closing of the Illinois and Mississippi (I&M) Canal, and the Milan Local Flood Protection Project (LFPP), which was completed by the Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers, in 1987, has provided comprehensive flood protection for the Village of Milan. Since the inception of the Milan project, there is no need to maintain the outdated MCSS, and no Federal money has been expended for yearly maintenance of the project since 1985. In 1974, an Environmental Assessment of the MCSS operations and maintenance project was conducted. The Environmental Assessment concluded that upon completion of the proposed Milan LFPP, the original purpose of the MCSS project will have been fulfilled.

#### II. AUTHORITY

The MCSS project was authorized by Congress in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930. The authorized project is shown on plate 2. The project consists of spillways in the canal embankment, levees along both sides of Mill Creek, and channel cleanouts and realignments for both Mill Creek and South Slough. In addition to constructing the MCSS project, the Federal Government also agreed to maintain the project. Maintenance of the MCSS project has been addressed in the *Mill Creek - South Slough Operation and Maintenance Environmental Assessment*, dated December 17, 1974.

The Milan LFPP was authorized on August 13, 1968, in Public Law 90-483, 90th Congress. This authorization supersedes the purpose of the MCSS project. The flood protection project includes comprehensive protection to the Village of Milan and the downstream Big Island area from Mill Creek flooding.



### III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Deauthorization of the MCSS project would eliminate future Federal involvement in operation and maintenance of the project. When the MCSS was completed in 1932, the Federal Government was responsible for maintenance of the area for flood protection and better drainage for Milan. The project area included Mill Creek from the spillways at the Rock River upstream to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad bridge, and the area of South Slough which was enlarged and straightened from Sand Creek to 1,000 feet above the mouth of South Slough. Maintenance of this area involved cleaning and dredging sediment from the channel and trimming shoreline trees and brush. In addition, about 15 acres of lowland woods were removed to provide an access road for maintenance equipment. However, since 1985 there has been no Federal money expended on project maintenance. This is attributed to the fact that the Milan LFPP, which was completed in 1987, now provides comprehensive protection to Milan from Mill Creek flooding.

### IV. ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives were considered for this project, as described below.

A. Deauthorization. The Federal operation and maintenance of the MCSS project would be discontinued. Due to remedial flood control projects, the MCSS no longer serves the functions for which it was authorized. This is the preferred alternative.

B. No Action. No action does not address the problem at hand. This alternative would result in continued Federal involvement and expenditures in operation and maintenance of a project which no longer functions for the authorized purpose.

### V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Natural Resources. The Mill Creek portion of the project from Knoxville Road to its confluence with the Rock River is an urbanized, somewhat disturbed area with a limited riparian corridor. The lower portion of this area is heavily used by fishermen and recreationists. Upstream of Knoxville Road, the riparian corridor along Mill Creek widens and the area becomes more functional as wildlife habitat. This section of Mill Creek is not utilized as extensively by recreationists and is in a much more natural state than the lower section. On the Mill Creek portion of the project, the vegetative species include horsetail, young willows, cottonwood, and dogwood. On drier ground are larger cottonwood, elm, box elder, soft maple, some walnut, basswood, and hickory, green ash, hackberry, limited oak species, elderberry, sumac, wild rose, grape, poison

ivy, and Virginia creeper. The common grass and weedy species also can be found.

The South Slough section of the project from Jimmy Creek through the Big Island area has a much greater diversity of plant and animal life. Habitat in this area includes palustrine emergent vegetation, bottomland hardwoods, upland, and cropped areas. The area is much less disturbed than the Mill Creek area and provides good habitat for all species of birds, furbearers, deer, and other mammals common to the area. In this area of South Slough there are also several adjacent farm fields which have been planted with corn, soybeans, and one field of sunflowers.

B. Endangered Species. Current use of the project locations is very limited to any threatened or endangered species.

Federally listed species for Rock Island County, Illinois, are:

Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	endangered
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	endangered

State-listed species for Rock Island County are:

Western hognose snake (*Heterodon mascons*)  
River otter (*Lutra canadensis*)  
Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)  
Running pine, bog clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*)  
Downy yellow painted cup (*Castilleja sissiliflora*)  
Schreber's aster (*Aster schreberi*)

C. Cultural Resources. No cultural resource sites are known to exist within the project area which has been severely disturbed by prior activities.

## VI. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PREFERRED ACTION

Effects of the preferred action on natural and cultural resources are summarized in table EA-1.

### A. Socioeconomic Impacts.

1. Community and Regional Growth. No significant impacts to the growth of the community or region would be realized as a direct result of the project.

2. Displacement of People. The proposed maintenance activities at the location necessitate no residential relocations.

TABLE EA-1

Effects of the Preferred Action  
on Natural and Cultural Resources

<u>Types of Resources</u>	<u>Authorities</u>	<u>Measurement of Effects</u>
Air quality	Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 165h-7, et seq.)	No significant effect
Areas of particular concern within the coastal zone	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended	Not present in planning area
Endangered and threatened species critical habitat	Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.)	No significant impacts anticipated
Fish and wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661, et seq.)	No significant effect
Floodplains	Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management	No significant effect
Historic and cultural properties	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.)	No significant effect
Prime and unique farmland	CEQ Memorandum of August 1, 1980; Analysis of Impacts on Prime or Unique Agricultural Lands in Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act	No significant effect
Water quality	Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.)	No significant effect
Wetlands	Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.)	Present in planning area; preservation anticipated
Wild and scenic rivers	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.)	Not present in planning area

3. Community Cohesion. No impacts to community cohesion would be realized as a result of the project, given the limited residential or other development in the project vicinity.

4. Public Facilities and Services. The Rock Island Sewage Treatment Facility is located along South Slough and discharges its effluent into South Slough just upstream of the Highway 199 bridge. It is anticipated that this section of the slough will remain in its current channel due to the topography in this section of the creek.

5. Life, Health, and Safety. The MCSS project's original purpose of flood control for the Village of Milan from Mill Creek flooding has been negated since the inception of the Milan LFPP which now provides comprehensive flood protection for the Village of Milan. Therefore, the proposed deauthorization of this project will have no impacts on life, health, or safety.

6. Property Values and Tax Revenues. No impacts to property values and tax revenues are anticipated from the proposed deauthorization.

7. Business and Industrial Growth. No impacts to business and industrial growth are anticipated due to the proposed deauthorization.

8. Employment and Labor Force. No impacts to employment and the labor force are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

9. Farm Displacement. It is possible that, in time, South Slough will begin to regain its natural meander, which, in turn, may impact adjacent crop fields by severing portions of a field, thereby making it more difficult to cultivate. However, it is anticipated that preventive measures may be taken, if desired, to prevent this from occurring. Therefore, no significant effects in farm displacement are anticipated due to the deauthorization of this project.

10. Noise. Noise levels will decrease since there will be no heavy equipment traversing the area dredging or cleaning.

11. Aesthetic Values. The aesthetic appeal of the area will increase with time since the slough will gradually reassume a meandering nature and vegetation along the banks will mature.

B. Environmental Impacts.

1. Manmade Resources. The deauthorization of the MCSS project will have a beneficial impact on manmade resources. The South Slough channel, which was straightened, gradually will reassume a meandering nature and will result in an improved and more diverse habitat for benthic fauna and ichthyofauna.

2. Natural Resources. There will be a gradual elimination of adverse impacts due to straightening (channelization) of streambanks as

South Slough gradually and naturally reassumes a meandering nature (e.g., bank undercutting, reappearance of fallen tree/debris snags, riffle/pool complexes, etc.) Benthic fauna and ichthyofauna will increase in abundance and diversity. Feeding opportunities for herons, egrets, and other birds will increase as fish abundance and diversity increase. Riparian vegetation will continue to repopulate the area, shading the stream, lowering water temperatures, and increasing the stream water's ability to retain dissolved oxygen.

3. Cultural Resources. The opinion of the Corps is that, because of prior disturbance, the deauthorization has no potential to impact significant cultural resources. Mr. Theodore Hild, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Illinois, concurred with this position on February 26, 1992 (IHPA No. 911213006WRI).

4. Air Quality. It is not anticipated that any impacts to air quality will occur as a result of this project deauthorization.

5. Water Quality. It is anticipated that the project will benefit the stream's water quality by reverting to more natural conditions.

#### VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATUTES

Compliance is summarized in table EA-2.

A. Endangered Species. The proposed action has been coordinated with the USFWS (see letter in Appendix C - Pertinent Correspondence). The USFWS stated that no federally listed or endangered species would be affected by this project.

B. Cultural Resources. The proposed action has been coordinated with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

C. Federal Water Project Recreational Act. The deauthorization of the proposed project would have no effect on provisions of this Act.

D. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Illinois Department of Conservation have been actively involved in this action. Letters of comment are reproduced in Appendix A.

E. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. No rivers listed as "wild and scenic" or rivers in the inventory for listing as "wild and scenic" will be affected by the project.

TABLE EA-2

Relationship of Plans to Environmental Protection  
Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements

<u>Federal Policies</u>	<u>Compliance</u>
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.	Full compliance
Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.	Full compliance
Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.	Not applicable
Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.	Full compliance
Estuary Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221, et seq.	Not applicable
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et seq.	Full compliance
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 601, et seq.	Full compliance
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 U.S.C. 460/-460/-11, et seq.	Not applicable
Marine Protection Research and Sanctuary Act, 33 U.S.C. 1401, et seq.	Not applicable
National Environment Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.	Full compliance
National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470a, et seq.	Full compliance
River and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 403, et seq.	Full compliance
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.	Not applicable
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.	Full compliance
Flood Plain Management (Executive Order 11988)	Full compliance
Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)	Full compliance
Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions (Executive Order 12114)	Not applicable
Farmland Protection Act	Full compliance
Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmland (CEQ Memorandum, 11 Aug 80)	Full compliance

## NOTES:

- a. Full compliance. Having met all requirements of the statute for the current stage of planning (either preauthorization or postauthorization).
- b. Partial compliance. Not having met some of the requirements that normally are met in the current stage of planning.
- c. Noncompliance. Violation of a requirement of the statute.
- d. Not applicable. No requirements for the statute required; compliance for the current stage of planning.

F. Executive Order 11988 (Flood Plain Management). Executive Order 11988 directs Federal agencies to: (1) avoid development in the floodplain unless it is the only practical alternative; (2) reduce the hazards and risks associated with floods; (3) minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and (4) restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain. The proposed action is in accordance with Executive Order 11988.

G. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands). Executive Order 11990 directs Federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands when a practical alternative exists. The proposed action is in accordance with Executive Order 11990.

#### VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Impacts caused by no action will be the same as those with the proposed deauthorization.

#### IX. PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED

There are no adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided associated with this project.

#### X. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

This project was completed in 1932 with yearly maintenance conducted through 1984. However, since 1985 there has been no money expended and little disturbance to the area. Therefore, it is anticipated that deauthorization of the project will have no impacts to the maintenance of long-term productivity and the area will continue to function as aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

#### XI. ANY IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IF THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED

Easements which had been sold to the Federal Government for channel maintenance access will be given back to the respective landowners. However, access to the area by the public will remain unaffected since the present landowners currently prohibit or allow access as desired. Therefore, there would be no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which would be involved with the proposed deauthorization.

#### XII. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO LAND-USE PLANS

The deauthorization of the project does not conflict with any known Federal, State, or local land-use plans.

#### XIII. CONCLUSIONS. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CUMULATIVE SYSTEM EFFECTS

There will be a gradual elimination of adverse impacts due to straightening (channelization) of streambanks as South Slough gradually and naturally reassumes a meandering nature. Benthic fauna and ichthyofauna will see increases in abundance and diversity. Feeding opportunities for herons, egrets, and other birds will increase as fish abundance and diversity increases. Riparian vegetation will continue to repopulate the area, shading the stream, lowering water temperatures, and increasing the stream water's ability to retain dissolved oxygen. This gradual reversion to a more natural state will therefore cumulatively benefit the environmental resources in the area.

#### XIV. COORDINATION

Coordination for the project has been and will be maintained with the following State and Federal agencies:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Illinois Department of Conservation
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Historic Preservation Officer

None of the above agencies had any objection to the deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project.

In addition to coordinating the project with Federal and State agencies, all adjacent landowners were sent a letter explaining the project and soliciting comments. In response to these letters, comments were received from the following:

- Moline Consumers
- C & H Brandt Company
- City of Rock Island
- Iowa Illinois Gas and Electric

Mr. Charles Ellis of Moline Consumers and Mr. Henry Brandt of Brandt Construction requested a meeting to discuss the proposal. A meeting was held on January 24, 1990, at which time the project was explained in



detail. Both men later submitted letters requesting that the project not be deauthorized due to their concerns over sedimentation and beaver dams causing flooding on their property.

Mr. Dale Howard, Wastewater Supervisor for the City of Rock Island, wrote a letter stating the city's concerns over the possibility of lowland flooding occurring from deauthorization of the project. Mr. Howard stated that the original Environmental Assessment which was written in 1974 did not take into account the effect of the wastewater plant effluent on Mill Creek since the plant was built in 1977 and that the effluent approximately doubles the flow of Mill Creek from the plant to the Mississippi River.

The purpose of the project was not to provide protection to Moline Consumers or Brandt Construction Company or to provide a means of conveying water for the City of Rock Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. The original purpose of the MCSS project was protection of the Village of Milan from flooding on Mill Creek. The Milan LFPP has now replaced this outdated project, as stated on page EA-1 of this document.

Mr. Sam Kipp of Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company called and stated that they have no objection to the project.

Copies of these letters are included in Appendix A.

It is assumed that other addressees on the distribution list who did not comment have no objection to the project.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH  
DEAUTHORIZATION PROJECT  
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I have reviewed the information provided by this Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough Project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Alternatives considered include: (a) The proposed deauthorization of the project; and (b) No Action.

Factors considered in making a determination that an EIS was not required were as follows:

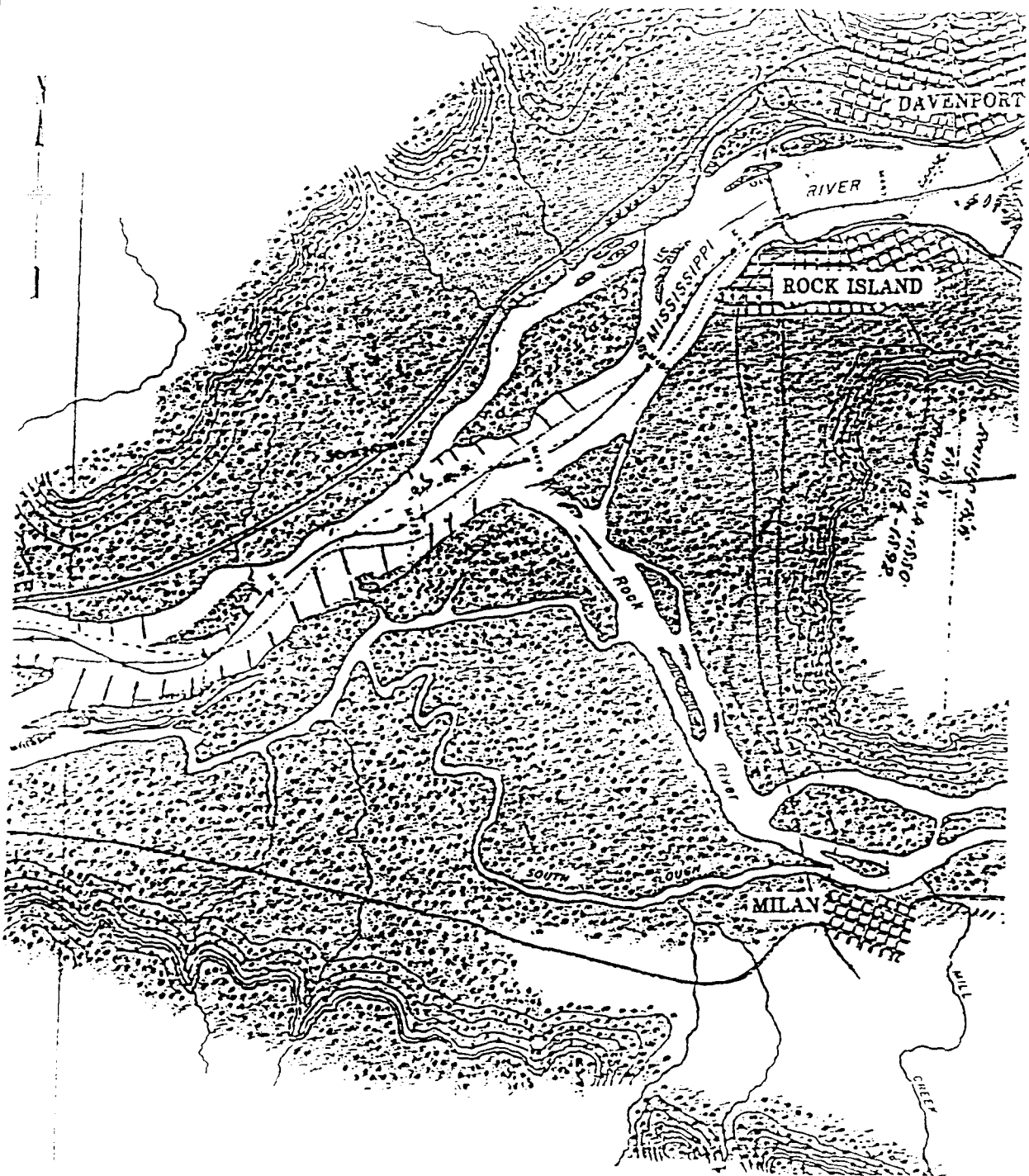
a. No long-term adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources are anticipated. No endangered species, either State or Federal, will be affected by the project action.

b. Land use after the project should remain unaltered, and no economic impacts to the project area are anticipated.

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Date

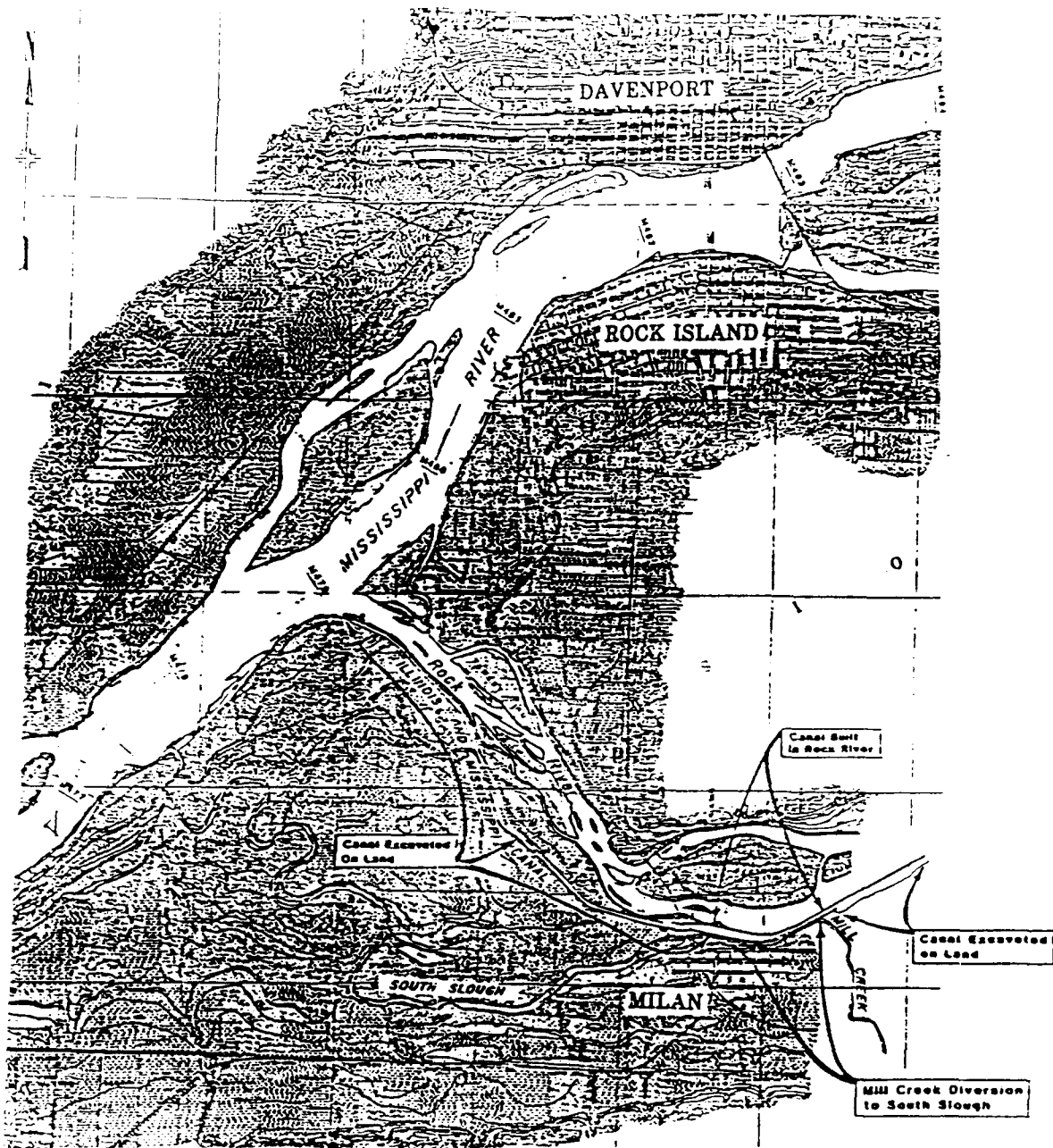
John R. Brown  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer



MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH AREA  
Prior to Illinois and Mississippi Canal  
(1878)

REFERENCES.

1. The 1878 map is from the Falls of St. Louis Sheet 16. Ma
2. The 1895 map is from Cordova to St. Louis



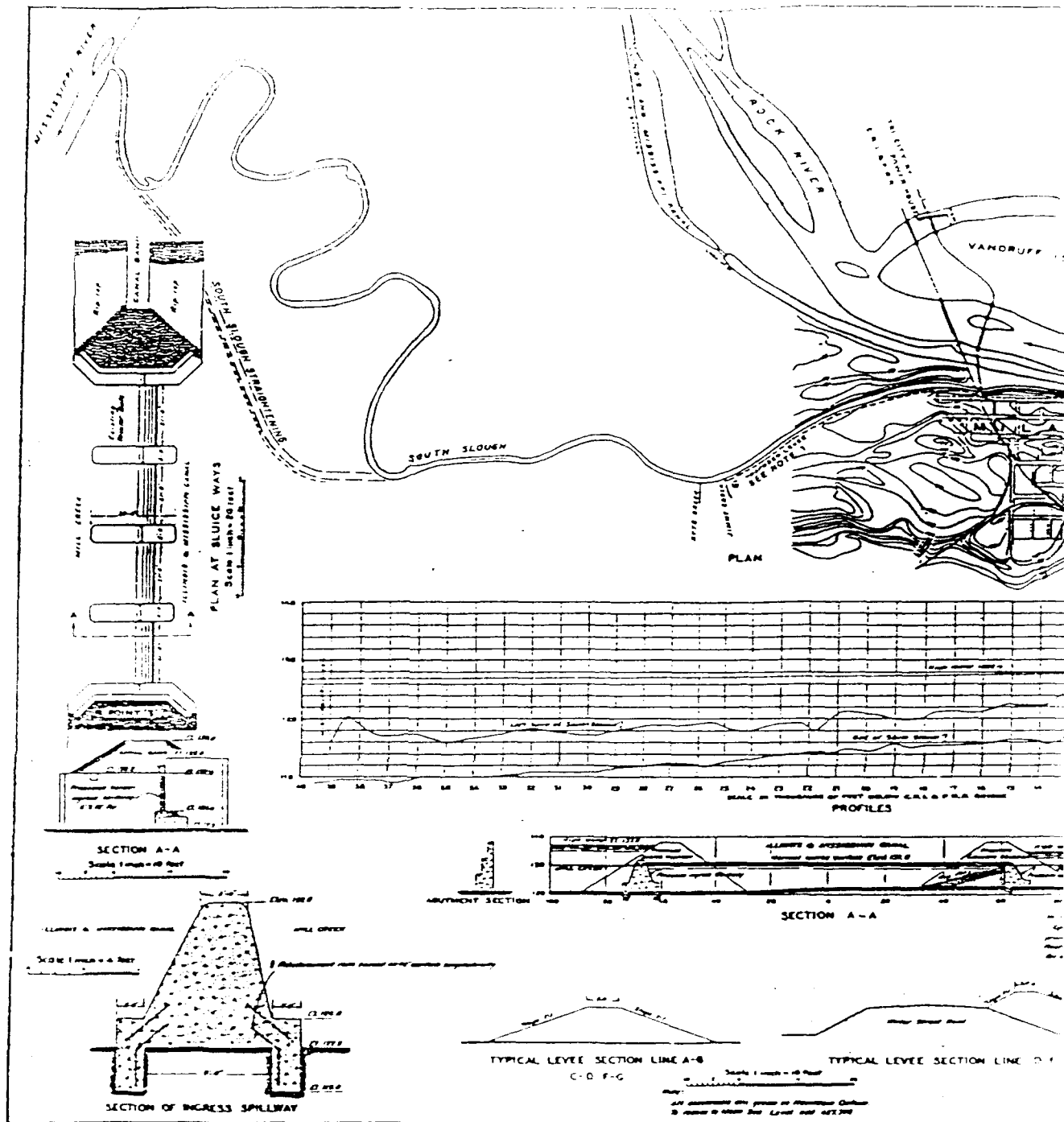
**MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH AREA**  
 After Illinois and Mississippi Canal Completed  
 (1895)

**PLATE 1**

**REFERENCES.**

1. The 1878 map is from "A Survey of the Mississippi River from the Falls of St. Anthony to the Junction of the Illinois River, Sheet 15" Major A. Mackenzie, COE, 1887-1888.
2. The 1895 map is from "Mississippi River Commission Charts, Cordova to St. Louis, 1895, Vol. IV, Chart Nos. 149 & 150.

Symbol	Description of Revisions	Date (Approved)
<p><b>U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND</b>          CORPS OF ENGINEERS          ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS</p>		
Designed by	MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH	
Drawn by	MILAN, ILLINOIS	
Checked by	1878 and 1895 MAPS	
Estimated by	Scale	1/4 1/2 3/4
Chief Engineer	2 1/2" = 1 Mile	
Approved by	Date	
	Drawing Number	



#### MILL CREEK-SOUTH SLOGH PROJECT

##### FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED

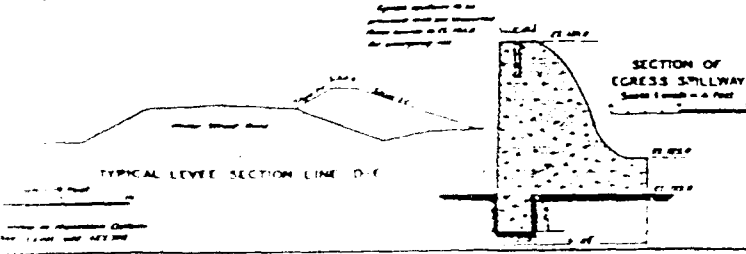
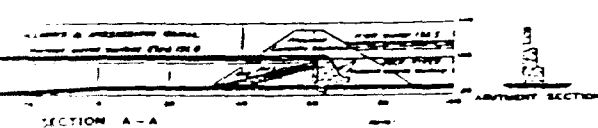
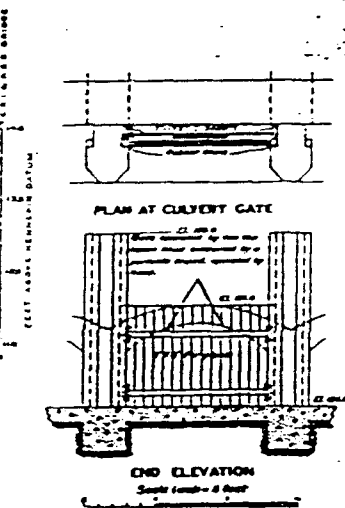
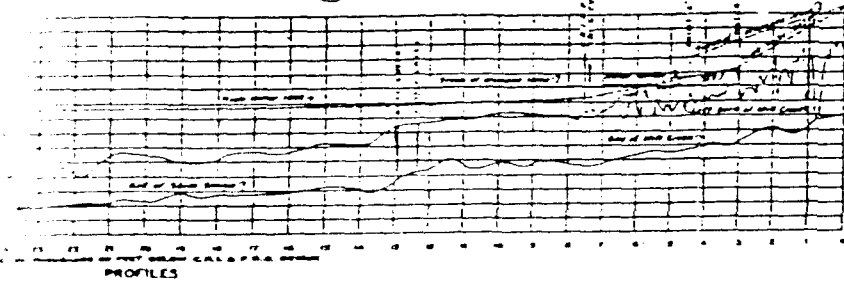
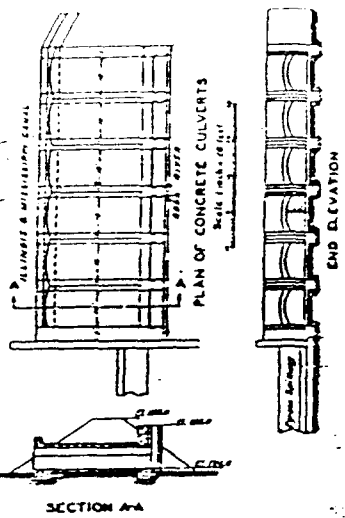
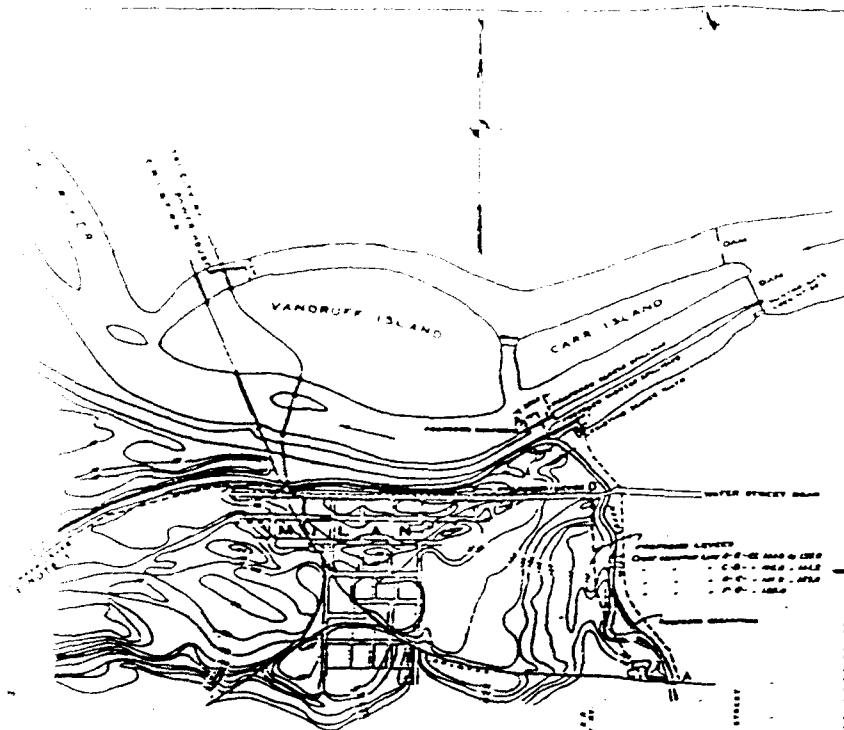
1. Levees on east and west side of Mill Creek were built.
2. Mill Creek was straightened as shown.
3. South Slogh was straightened as shown.
4. Existing Mill Creek and South Slogh Channels were cleaned out.
5. Ingress Spillways were built at original mouth of Mill Creek and at Slogh Ways for L. & M. Canal.
6. Egress Spillway was built in L. & M. Canal near Mill Creek.
7. Culverts were built in L. & M. Canal near Egress Spillway.

##### MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES (FEDERAL)

1. Maintain Levees & Structures.
2. Clean out out of L. & M. Canal at Spillways.
3. Clean Mill Creek and South Slogh Channels.

##### NOTE:

1. Proposed Levee P. 1



**SURVEY OF MILL CREEK AND SOUTH SLOUGH**

REVISION OF DISTRICT ENGINEER'S PLAN (ENCLOSURE NO. 1)

IN 1 SHEET SHEET NO. 1 SCALE OF MAP

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE, ROCK ISLAND, ILL. MAR. 12, 1904

SUBMITTED BY *C. H. Waters* APPROVED BY *J. L. Davis*

TRANSMITTED WITH SECRET

DRAWING BY U.S. FILE NO. 406,563 - DATED MAR. 12, 1904

PLATE 2

NOTE

1. Proposed Levee F to J was not built.

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND CORPS OF ENGINEERS ENGINEER'S OFFICE	
MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH MILAN, ILLINOIS AUTHORIZED MILL CREEK - SOUTH SLOUGH PROJECT MAP	
Background Map	Scale
Ground Map	Scale
Check Map	Scale
Reference Map	Scale
Approved Map	Scale

PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204 2004

January 8, 1992

RECEIVED

JAN 21 1992

PRESERVATION SERVICES

Planning Division

IHPA REVIEW

H/A S. H. H. 1/24  
AC  
AR SO 1376 FTW  
File

Mr. Theodore Hild  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer  
Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

7 9/1213006WRI

PS

Dear Mr. Hild:

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing to request deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough (MCSS) project near Milan in Rock Island County, Illinois. Please reference our letter of December 10, 1991, regarding deauthorization of this project.

We wish to clarify the impact of this deauthorization on historic properties by clarifying the Federal involvement in the project. Please note that the map accompanying our earlier letter gave details of the Milan Local Flood Protection project and not the MCSS project currently being considered for deauthorization.

The Federal action in deauthorization of the MCSS project involves the relinquishment of 118.29 acres of easement granted to the Corps for construction and maintenance of levees, ditches, and other project features. The easements are located in portions of sections 17, 20, 21, 22, and 24, T. 17 N., R. 2 W., Rock Island County, Illinois (enclosure 1).

Should deauthorization be approved, these easements will be relinquished and the Corps will no longer have any controlling interest in this land.

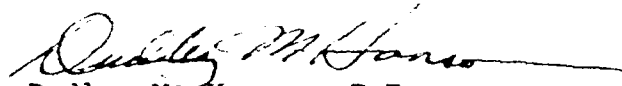
The opinion of the Corps is that, because of prior disturbance, the deauthorization has no potential to impact significant cultural resources.



Please provide any comments you may have regarding this project within 30 days. If you have questions, please call Mr. Ron Pulcher of our Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/788-6361, Ext. 6384, or you may write to the following address:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning Division  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

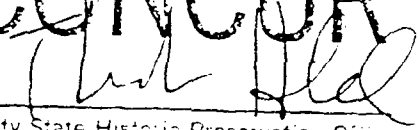
Sincerely,



Dudley M. Hanson, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

CONCUR

By:   
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: Feb 26, 1992



## CITY of ROCK ISLAND

Steve Peacock  
Planning Division  
U.S. Army Engineer District  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Il. 61204-2004

Jan. 14, 1992

Dear Steve:

As a representative of the City of Rock Island I would like to express our concern regarding the proposed deauthorization of Mill Creek - South Slough.

Since the City of Rock Island's Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant empties into Mill Creek approximately 2 miles upstream of the Mississippi River there is concern that failure to maintain Mill Creek in this final section may eventually cause low land flooding.

The original Environmental Assessment by the Corp in 1974 did not take into account the effect of the Wastewater Plant effluent on Mill Creek since the Plant was built in 1977. The effluent from the Southwest Wastewater treatment Plant approximately doubles the flow of Mill Creek from the Plant to the Mississippi River.

There actually may or may not be any significant effect as a result of deauthorization, but we would appreciate the matter being looked into.

Sincerely,

Dale Howard  
Wastewater Supervisor

cc: Files  
Bob Hawes- Public Works  
Jim Kammueler- IEPA

Public Works Department / Sewer Division  
1299 Mill Street / Rock Island, IL 61201  
phone (309) 793-3455



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3596

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

JAN 21 1992

Dudley M. Hanson, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division  
Department of the Army  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has reviewed your agency's scoping letter regarding the proposed request for deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project in Rock Island County, Illinois. The project was initiated to relieve the flooding of Mill Creek in the village of Milan, Illinois. The flooding occurred due to the diversion of Mill Creek to the Mississippi River via the South Slough when the Illinois and Mississippi Canal was built in 1895. Deauthorization of the project has been proposed because its initial purpose has been fulfilled with the completion of the Milan Local Flood Protection Project in 1987, which provides comprehensive flood protection for the village of Milan.

Based upon our review of the environmental documentation, we have no objections to the proposed deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please call Holly Wirick of my staff at (312) 353-6704 or 353-6704 (FTS).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William D. Franz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William D. Franz, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Planning and Management Division

# C & H BRANDT COMPANY

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

PHONE 787-4644

January 28, 1982

700-4th Street West  
Milan, Illinois

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning Division (Steve Peacock)  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Re: Deauthorization of the Mill Creek South Slough  
Project (LFPP).

Dear Mr. Peacock:

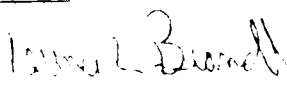
Our Company is concerned about discontinuing maintenance of the South Slough west of Milan, IL. We have seventeen acres plus of property along Andalusia Road in the City of Rock Island adjacent west of Green Lakes Recreational property which has been used for parking recreational trailers.

Sand Creek crosses our property south to north along the east side. This industrial property is being used as a storage area for construction equipment and materials. Sand Creek's egress merges into South Slough, which partially crosses our property on the north side.

The Corps of Engineers have a permanent easement the entire length of South Slough to the Mississippi River. If the South Slough is blocked west of our property, the Corps can use these easements to relieve the obstructions, whereas: private property owners would have to obtain written permission from all property owners (even the Corps of Engineers itself) to the river. In our case, nearly all property owners to the river as this property is near the east end of South Slough.

In conclusion, it is our opinion the Corps of Engineers should continue maintenance of Mill Creek - South Slough because they have jurisdiction over the streams involved, and the means, access and expertise to continue maintenance at the lowest cost.

Sincerely,

  
Terence L. Brandt  
C & H Brandt Co.

**MOLINE CONSUMERS**  
*Company*

1701 FIFTH AVENUE  
MOLINE, ILLINOIS 61265

January 28, 1992

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District Rock Island  
Attention: Planning Division (Steve Peacock)  
Clock Tower Building  
P. O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Re: Mill Creek - South Slough project deauthorization

Dear Mr. Peacock:

Moline Consumers Company is extremely concerned about the proposed deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project. Without continued maintenance of the South Slough channel the area will become subject to excessive flooding which will seriously impact property values and development of the area. For these reasons we request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reconsider the proposed deauthorization, and continue maintenance of the South Slough channel.

Sincerely,

MOLINE CONSUMERS COMPANY

*Charles C. Ellis*

Charles C. Ellis  
Vice President

CCE/ksl

PHONE: 309-757-8250

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IN REPLY REFER TO

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Rock Island Field Office (ES)  
4469 - 48th Avenue Court  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201



COM: 309/793-5800  
FTS: 782-5800

February 13, 1992

Colonel John R. Brown  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District  
ATTN: Planning Division (Steve Peacock)  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Brown:

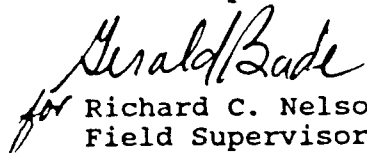
This letter is in reference to the proposed deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project. We have reviewed the information provided by your letter dated December 10, 1991 and have no objection to project deauthorization.

By eliminating periodic disturbance from maintenance activities, we would anticipate that diversification and subsequent habitat stabilization would occur on the subject stream. The presence of perennial flow from the Southwest Rock Island Treatment Plant in conjunction with pool/riffle complexes created by beaver dams is considered to be a positive change in habitat over intermittent flows in a uniformly maintained channel.

The proposed action is not expected to adversely affect Federally listed or proposed endangered species in the project area. Trees along the lower stream segment are occasionally used for roosting by winter resident bald eagles, therefore reduced activity could only result in reduced disturbance to this species. Reduced disturbance and increased diversity may also increase the area's suitability for the state listed river otter.

This letter provides comment under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If you have questions concerning this letter, please call Mr. Bob Clevenstine at 793-5800.

Sincerely

  
for Richard C. Nelson  
Field Supervisor

CC: IDOC (Dufford, Sallee)  
USEPA Region V (McMullin)

BC:hw



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING—P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

Planning Division

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
HAS REVIEWED THIS PROJECT NOTICE  
AND HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE  
ARE NO APPARENT CONFLICTS  
BETWEEN THE PROJECT AS  
DESCRIBED AND THE POLICIES OF  
THIS DEPARTMENT.

BY *Richard W. Smith* 2/13/92  
DIVISION OF IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to request deauthorization of the Mill Creek - South Slough project. The project is located in Rock Island County, Illinois, in the Mill Creek, Rock River, and Mississippi River floodplains.

When the Illinois and Mississippi (I&M) canal was built in 1895, Mill Creek was diverted to the Mississippi River by way of the South Slough, an abandoned channel of the Rock River. This project caused serious flooding of Mill Creek in the village of Milan, Illinois. The Mill Creek - South Slough project was initiated to relieve the problem. The project was authorized by Congress in the River and Harbor Act of 1930 and was completed in 1932. The project included construction of the Mill Creek spillways to the Rock River, allowing the canal to remain navigable; channel dredging and levee work upstream to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad bridge; enlargement and straightening of the South Slough channel downstream to Jimmy Creek; and excavation of a new South Slough channel from Sand Creek to 1,000 feet above the mouth of South Slough. The authorization also provided for maintenance of Mill Creek and South Slough.

In 1951, the I&M canal was closed to commercial navigation. This event prompted city, county, and state officials to request that the Mill Creek outlet be restored to the Rock River. This restoration, which was completed in 1963, provided a benefit by reducing the size of bridges to be constructed across the South Slough for Highway 92 and Interstate 280, as well as providing better flood protection for the village of Milan. However, the Federal Government continued to maintain the levees and channels for the Mill Creek - South Slough project because the project was still needed to protect Milan from major Mill Creek floods until a comprehensive protection project was provided for the village. This project was the Milan Local Flood Protection Project (LFPP).

In 1974, an Environmental Assessment of the Mill Creek - South Slough operations and maintenance project was conducted. The Environmental Assessment concluded that upon completion of the proposed Milan LFPP, the original purpose of the Mill Creek - South Slough project will have been fulfilled.

RWC

FUT copies to  
Tim Wexner  
Reg 1 office  
Dennis Blaser

MRE

12/16/91  
12-17-91




The Milan LFPP was completed by the Rock Island District in 1987, and it provided comprehensive flood protection for the village of Milan. This protection included flooding from the Rock River, the Mississippi River, Mill Creek, Jimmy Creek, Kyte Creek, and Eckhart Creek. The LFPP also included intercepting all local South Slough drainage upstream of Interstate 280 and rerouting the flows into new interior flood control facilities. These facilities included ponding areas, gravity outlets, and a pump station. Thus, the purpose of the Mill Creek - South Slough project has been eliminated, via construction of the Milan LFPP, and no further Federal maintenance of the Mill Creek - South Slough project is required to provide Mill Creek flood protection to the village of Milan and downstream through Big Island.

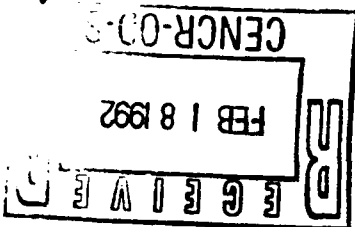
Please provide any comments you may have regarding this proposed deauthorization within 30 days of the date of this letter. Address your comments or questions to Mr. Steve Peacock of our Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/788-6361, Ext. 6386. Written comments may be sent to the following address:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District Rock Island  
ATTN: Planning Division (Steve Peacock)  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Sincerely,

  
Dudley M. Hanson, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure



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Mr. Richard Nelson  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4469 48th Avenue Court  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Mr. Dan Salee  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 149  
Aledo, Illinois 61231

Mr. Bernard P. Killian  
Director  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Mr. Dennis Kennedy  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Water Resources  
3215 Executive Park Drive  
P.O. Box 19484  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9484

Mr. Valdas Adamkus  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
230 South Dearborn  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. Theodore Hild  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Mr. G. Brent Manning  
Director  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Lincoln Tower Plaza  
524 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

Mr. Norbert Schwartz  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Regional Office V  
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Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Milan, Illinois 61264

Rock Island County Board  
Rock Island County Court House  
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Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Honorable Mark W. Schwiebert  
Mayor  
City of Rock Island  
1528 3rd Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Mr. Dennis Foster  
President  
Big Island Conservancy District  
2903 53rd Avenue West  
Milan, Illinois 61264

Moline Consumers Company  
321 W. 2nd Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265

Mr. William B. Schroder, Jr.  
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Rock Island, Illinois 61201

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Rock Island, Illinois 61201

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700 W. 4th Street  
Milan, Illinois 61264

Mr. Arthur J. DeClerk  
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Village of Milan  
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